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Catalogue of the British Columbia Provincial Museum.¹—It includes mammals, birds, fishes, insects, trees, plants, fossils, ethnological specimens, etc. The distribution of the species of mammals, as well as the source of the museum specimen, is given. A full check list of the birds of the province bears a special check mark opposite those lacking in the collection, in order that the friends of the museum may know what is most acceptable. Very little is yet known of the birds of the northern and eastern parts of British Columbia. The eggs are listed, but the study-series of bird-skins, which are available to all students, is not published in the catalogue.

The ethnological collection is classified under several heads, as houses, dress, ceremony, craniology, etc. The introduction to this list differentiates the Indians of British Columbia from those of the Plains, and cautions one against drawing hasty conclusions of Japanese affinities or origin.

HARLAN I. SMITH.

The Systematic Position of *Peripatus*.—Since the discovery by Moseley of tracheæ in *Peripatus*, over twenty years ago, scarcely a doubt has been thrown upon the arthropod nature of this interesting animal. Recently² Boas, one of the most accurate students of the arthropods, has taken up the question of the affinities of the form in question, and after a careful consideration of its structure decides that it has nothing decidedly arthropodan in its make-up, but that in all deciding points it is clearly an annelid modified for a terrestrial life. It lacks the thick jointed cuticle characteristic of the arthropod, and its appendages are not arthropodan. It possesses the external circular layer of muscles which is not found in any true arthropod, and all of its muscles are of the smooth variety. The eyes are upon the annelidan type; the nephridia are numerous; the characteristic arthropodan hairs are lacking, while the claws, upon which so much weight has been placed, are built upon a different plan, being solid rather than hollow outgrowths.

A few points need more space. The jaws of *Peripatus* are modified appendages, according to both von Kennel and Sedgwick. Boas, however, points out that this jaw is but the terminal claw of *Peripatus* and is not the whole limb. He also calls attention to the relations of the parapodia to the mouth in the polynoid worms. The heart, like that of arthropods and unlike that of the annelid, is pro-

¹ *A Preliminary Catalogue of the Collections of Natural History and Ethnology in the Provincial Museum, Victoria, British Columbia*, 1898, p. 196, is being issued.

² *Kgl. danske Vidensk. Selsk. Forhandlingar*, 1898, No. 6 (1899).